

Resurrection Day 2021
The Impossibility of Death Having Power Over Jesus Forever

Introduction: The title of today's sermon is taken from Acts 2:24. Andreas Kostenberger reminds us that "Human experience consistently confirms the fact that death is final and irreversible." Kostenberger continues, "Could God raise his Messiah from the dead? Despite Jesus's predictions, his own disciples do not seem to expect that God will do so. Death by crucifixion is too great an obstacle—it has completely overturned all of their preconceived messianic expectations. There is no way God's true Messiah could die like that."

1) Friday and Saturday after His death (April 3-4, 33 AD)

- a) The veil of the temple is torn from top to bottom.
 - i) Cf. Matt. 27:51a (written to Jews); Mark 15:38 (written to Gentiles)
- b) An earthquake shakes Jerusalem, while some OT saints are temporarily restored back to life.
 - i) Cf. Matt. 27:51b-54
- c) The soldiers pierce His side (John 19:34; Zech. 12:10)
 - i) To prove His death
- d) Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus courageously identify with Jesus and claim His body for burial. (Mark 15:42-47; John 19:41-42)
 - i) At great potential cost to themselves to identify with a crucifixion victim.
 - ii) Compare this with the fearful disciples who are hiding. (John 20:19)
- e) His body is buried before sundown (@ 7 PM) on Friday (Matt. 27:57-60; Mark 15:42-46; Luke 23:50-54; John 19:31-42)
 - i) In obedience to Deut. 21:23.
 - ii) They used an extravagant amount (@ 75 pounds) of myrrh and aloes. (John 19:39)
 - (1) Normal burial custom was 10-20 pounds.
- f) The chief priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees demand the Romans seal the tomb and set a guard to prevent His disciples from stealing the body. (Matt. 27:64-66)
 - i) Normally a stone was used to keep animals from destroying the corpse.
- g) The women watch His tomb (Matt. 27:61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55-56)

2) He is risen! (April 5, 33 AD)

- a) Jesus rises from the dead, though the exact time is unknown.
- b) The women visit before sunrise on Sunday
 - i) Cf. Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 23:56
 - ii) Sunrise in Jerusalem on this day is 6:22 AM.
- c) God initiates an earthquake
 - i) The angel descends and rolls the stone away from the entrance to provide access for His followers, NOT to let Jesus out. (Matt. 28:2-3)
 - ii) The soldiers are frightened. (Matt. 28:4)

- d) The women visit early Sunday
 - i) Cf. Matt. 28:5-8; Mark 16:2-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1
 - ii) The angel gives the women two-fold responsibility.
 - (1) Go, tell the disciples He has risen.
 - (2) Tell them to go to Galilee and meet Him as He had told them earlier.
(Matt. 26:32)
- e) The women tell the apostles (Luke 24:9-12; John 20:2-10)
 - i) The initial reaction of the apostles was unbelief.
 - ii) Peter and John then race to the tomb

3) He appears to many (April 5-May 15, 33 AD)

- a) Five times on Resurrection Day
 - i) To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
 - ii) To the other women (Matt. 28:9-10)
 - (1) The Roman soldiers inform the Jewish leadership what has happened.
(Matt. 28:11-15)
 - (2) The lie spreads that the Roman soldiers all fell asleep, but apparently not a deep enough sleep because they somehow know it was the Lord's disciples who stole His body.
 - iii) To Simon Peter (Luke 24:33-35; 1 Cor. 15:5)
 - iv) To the disciples traveling to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-32)
 - (1) Jesus teaches from various OT passages concerning His death and resurrection.
 - v) To the disciples, minus Thomas (Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25)
- b) Five times during the next 40 days
 - i) To the disciples, including Thomas (John 20:26-31)
 - ii) To seven disciples near the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
 - (1) Jesus performs a miracle of catching fish.
 - (2) Peter is re-instated and re-commissioned and informed of his death.
 - iii) To over 500 disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18)
 - (1) The commission to be obeyed during His absence.
 - (2) Most of these were still alive in Paul's day, 20 years later. (1 Cor. 15:6)
 - iv) To James, Jesus' half-brother (1 Cor. 15:7)
 - (1) Perhaps James is converted at this time.
 - (2) Perhaps meets with His other half-brothers at this time, including Jude.
 - v) To the disciples (Luke 24:44-49)
 - (1) The command to wait in Jerusalem until the coming of the Spirit.
 - (a) This relates to OT predictions of the New Covenant ministry of the Holy Spirit (Ezek. 36; Jer. 33).

4) Things to remember:

- a) Both the Father and the Son were involved in His resurrection.

- i) Father (Acts 2:32) and the Son (John 10:17-18)
- b) Each aspect of His death and resurrection were detailed by God's infinite wisdom and knowledge. (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- c) His resurrection power enables the genuine believer to live a life pleasing to God. (Phil. 3:10)
- d) His resurrection guarantees the resurrection of every genuine believer. (Rom. 6:5)